

Oblon Docket: 243707US2SDIV
New DIV Application
Inv: Mariko TAKAYANAGI
Preliminary Amendment

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-22 are pending; Claims 1-12 have been canceled; no claims have been amended herewith. The Specification has been amended to edit minor informalities and to amend the title.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

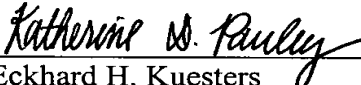
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

EHK:KDP:dmr

I:\ATTY\KDP\24\S\243707US\243707 PREL AM.DOC



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No: 28,870
Katherine D. Pauley
Registration No. 50,607